

CIA 'Atrocities' Story Stirs Flurry, Is Denied

There was a short-lived flurry on Capitol Hill yesterday over an alleged statement by Sen. Stephen M. Young (D-Ohio) that Central Intelligence Agency members in Vietnam were committing atrocities to discredit the Vietcong.

The statement, carried by news agencies, was later branded by the Ohio Democrat as a misquotation.

Before Young sought to correct the record, the CIA and Rep. Cornelius E. Gallagher, who accompanied Young on a recent trip to Southeast Asia, issued denials.

"As far as our agents having done such things, the statement is absolutely false," protested a CIA spokesman.

Young said he had not spoken to any CIA agents in Vietnam and that the CIA was not the source of the story, which he said he regarded with skepticism. He said he had no plans to call for an Armed Services Committee investigation, as the news services reported.

Before's Young's denial, Gallagher called the statement "appalling" and suggested that it "may well be that he (Young) spoke to a Vietcong disguised as a CIA man."